

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a Special Meeting on October 5, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York, for the Town Clerk to present the 2022 Tentative Budget to the Town Board.

Present: Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor
Paul Salerno Councilman
Thomas Anderson Councilman
Matthew Brassard Councilman

Excused: Nathan Gilbo Councilman

Others Present: Becky Gilbo and Rose French, Town Clerk

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:00pm by saluting the flag.

The Supervisor read the legal notice calling for the special meeting; for the purpose of the Town Clerk to present the 2022 Tentative Budget to the Town Board.

The Supervisor stated he will go over some of the highlights: Three (3) percent raise across the board, including elected officials. Created a new position in Building & Grounds for next year. Will need a new Senior Van-the County may have one. The campsites will be reduced to 3 laborers due to the fact that Matt Ball will be going to Building & Grounds. Not sure if 3 will work, put 4 in the budget just in case. Will need to set up an account for bed tax revenue-publicity. Street lights were reduced; the LED lights seem to be working well. Sales tax-\$160,000 increase. Court revenues are down; costing Town @ \$50,000 a year to run, revenues to date are \$21,000. The Town Board does have options; can go to one Judge, especially with Bail Reform, that is what a lot of Towns are doing. Highway CHIPS money stayed the same. \$42,000 BAN for a truck for Highway. Petro RV Park water bill is all messed up; Art Morgan will make sure the meter is running properly; Bill Petro did not disagree. Councilman Gilbo has been asking about a Planner; \$30,000 and also sidewalks.

The Supervisor stated that financially we are in good shape. He also stated that the stimulus money does not reflect in this budget. Councilman Salerno asked how much the stimulus money was and the Supervisor stated a ½ million. The Supervisor stated the State Police want to come here. We are ear marked \$300,000 for a police station. He has been in conversations with Representative Elise Stefanik regarding this. He stated that if this falls through we will have to make a decision regarding the police department. Councilman Salerno asked who decides and the Supervisor stated the Town Board does; one Officer or run a department.

Councilman Brassard stated to Becky Gilbo that the minimum wage will be going up January 1st, he already let LeeAnn know.

Councilman Anderson asked if the stimulus money was already accounted for. Becky Gilbo stated we received \$223,000 this year and will receive the rest next year. The Supervisor stated we have until 2024 to spend it. The Supervisor stated a lot of Towns are afraid to use it. Councilman Anderson asked what the long term outlook is for the police department and the Supervisor stated it would be a 30-year agreement; they would pay all the utilities and we would be responsible for maintaining the building. The Supervisor stated this would be an actual station and it would serve Moriah, Crown Point and Ticonderoga. Becky Gilbo asked if they could help fund the \$300,000. The Supervisor stated he did not think that would happen; he also stated that we need this police station. He is not sure of the funds available for it yet, may need a grant to do it. He said if we don't get funding we will go to Plan B. Becky Gilbo stated she is concerned about funding; at what cost would it be to the Town. Councilman Anderson asked the Supervisor if he has been in contact with the Governor's Office and the Supervisor said yes, he has been talking to Elise Stefanik. Councilman Salerno asked when the police station would be complete and the Supervisor stated they are shooting for Spring. Councilman Salerno stated he spoke to the Supervisor in Ticonderoga and they have 9 officers in their police station and it cost @ \$1,000,000.

The Supervisor asked when the Board wanted to schedule a budget workshop. Councilman Gilbo cannot get here until 7:00pm. Rose French, Town Clerk asked what the Planner position

was for and Councilman Brassard stated the person would help us write grants that we are currently missing out on.

The Budget workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021; 7:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House.

Becky Gilbo stated we did have to use \$15,000 in fund balance for Water District #2. Councilman Salerno asked Ms. Gilbo where we would be if the budget stayed the same and no changes were made at the workshop. Ms. Gilbo stated the tax rate went down. The Supervisor stated we met or are below the tax cap. Councilman Salerno asked if the appropriations for the campsites are based on this year's revenues, Becky said yes, she does not go to the top; she splits the difference.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22pm.

Town Clerk